



**United States Department of Justice
United States Attorney's Office
District of Minnesota**

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News Release

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Minneapolis Man Pleads Guilty to Human Trafficking Charges

Minneapolis - Earlier today, thirty-six-year-old Daniel McNeal of Minneapolis pleaded guilty to federal human trafficking charges. McNeal, who also goes by the names of "Diamond" and "Daddy," appeared before U.S. District Court Judge David S. Doty in federal court in Minneapolis. He pleaded guilty to one count of the sex trafficking of a minor and one count of transporting a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity.

Relative to this action, McNeal admitted that in August of 2006, he enticed a sixteen-year-old Minnesota girl into prostitution. He also admitted that in September of 2006, he transported that girl from Minnesota to Iowa and, while in Iowa, engaged in sexual intercourse with her on numerous occasions. Following that trip, he transported her to Texas and South Carolina, where he caused her to work as a prostitute for his financial benefit.

McNeal has a long criminal history, including assault, aggravated robbery, and prostitution-related offenses. He also is recognized as a criminal sex offender and was recently charged with failing to provide the Minnesota Sex Offender Registry with current information about himself.

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Each of the federal charges now filed against McNeal carries a mandatory minimum sentence of ten years and a potential maximum sentence of life in federal prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined by Judge Doty and imposed at a hearing not yet scheduled.

After today's hearing, U.S. Attorney Rachel K. Paulose said, "The fight against human trafficking is America's modern-day fight against slavery in a country founded on the dignity and equality of all people. Human trafficking is of particular interest in Minnesota given studies showing that our state has been particularly vulnerable to this crime, despite our longstanding reputation as a leader in human rights. This Office is grateful for the work of law enforcement and social services in partnering with our prosecutors to bring an end to the crime of human trafficking."

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Erica H. MacDonald. The case is the result of an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and the Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force. The Gerald D. Vick Human Trafficking Task Force was named for the slain St. Paul police officer who dedicated his professional life to eradicating the trafficking and prostitution of human beings. The Task Force was established with federal funds and is comprised of investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Immigration and Custom Enforcement, the St. Paul Police Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and others agencies. Through the Task Force, investigators work with victim service organizations to locate and assist trafficking victims while apprehending and prosecuting those responsible for this reprehensible crime.

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked annually across international borders for involuntary servitude or use in the sex trades.

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An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 are trafficked within the U.S. each year. According to the Justice Department, the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area is one of the fifteen largest human trafficking centers in the country. The fight against this horrific violation of human rights is a major priority of the U.S. Department of Justice and U.S. Attorney Offices nationwide.

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